BONUS STORY

MAMEZO'S NINJA DIARY

Promise of the Moon

Part 1

SPECIAL PROJECT PART 1

FROM UE-RIN TO ALL THE READERS

A MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE TO THE READERS FROM UE-RIN!!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR READING THIS SERIES!!

I WAS SO HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO DRAW USAGI AND HANZO'S CHILDREN

I HAD A REALLY TOUGH TIME DRAWING THE ATTACK ON IGA, BUT I'M GLAD I WAS ABLE TO END THE STORY WITH A HAPPY ENDING

I STARTED WRITING *TAIL OF THE MOON* WITH A LIGHTHEARTED FEELING AS A SEQUEL TO *TSUKI NO TOIKI, AI NO KIZU* (WHICH I CREATED FOR *THE MARGARET*) THANKS TO ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT, IT HAS BECOME MY LONGEST SERIES EVER.

I'M THINKING ABOUT CREATING AN EXTRA STORY FOR *TAIL OF THE MOON*, SO PLEASE CHECK IT OUT IF YOU SEE IT IN THE MAGAZINE!!

I'M A VERY HAPPY PERSON...!♡

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YOU HAVEN'T SEEN HER IN TEN YEARS ...?
IS A PROMISE LIKE THAT EVEN VALID AFTER SUCH A LONG TIME?
HUH?!
SHE'S A CUTE GIRL WITH A NOSE LIKE A PIGLET.
PIGLET ?!
I HAVEN'T SEEN HER FOR NEARLY TEN YEARS, SO I'M NOT SURE WHAT SHE'S LIKE NOW
YOU'RE BACK, MAMEZO.
HANZO!!
MASTER HATTORI HANZO
LISA'S HUSBAND, A HIGH-RANKING NINJA WHO'S ALSO MY SUPERVISOR
COME TO MY ROOM.
OKAY...

I WAS REALLY SURPRISED WHEN I WOKE UP..
IF SUCH A TRIVIAL MATTER SHOCKED YOU, YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO BE ABLE TO MARRY ME.
MARRY YOU?!
LOOK...
I'VE BEEN TOLD THAT THIS "HATSUNE" IS MY COUSIN...
...BUT WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS SHE?
"MAMEZO..."
HMPH
MAMEZO HAS A BRIDE-ELECT CALLED HATSUNE!!

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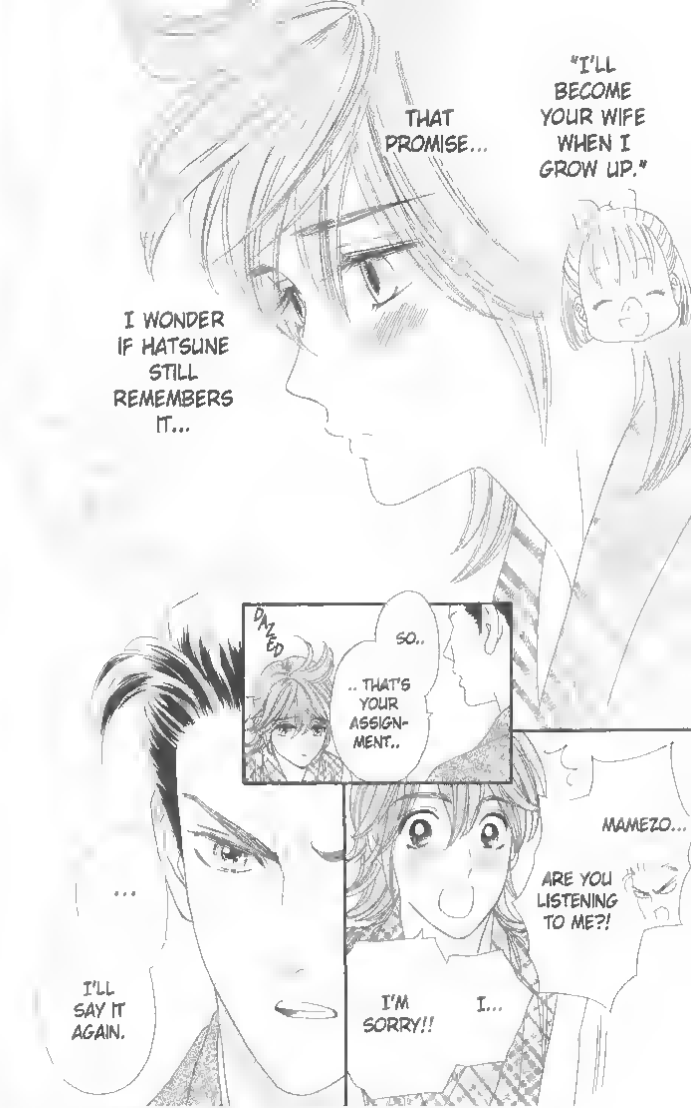
YOUR NEXT ASSIGNMENT IS TO DELIVER HER SAFELY TO UEDA CASTLE.
IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT KOMATSU-HIME, TADAKATSU HONDA'S DAUGHTER, WILL MARRY INTO THE SANADA FAMILY.
A WEDDING ...
MARRY...
SNAP
ONCE YOU COMPLETE THIS ASSIGNMENT, I'LL LET YOU MARRY HATSUNE.



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I'M MAMEZO'S GUARDIAN.
AND WHO IS THIS GIRL?
OUKA ?!
USA AND THE OTHERS WILL BE WORRIED ABOUT YOU...!!
YOU SHOULDN'T BE FOLLOWING ME!
VIP
THIS IS WONDER-FUL!!
YOU'RE HANZO HATTORI'S DAUGH-TER?
I HAVE MY FATHER'S PERMISSION TO BE HERE.
She uses a body substitu-tion technique on me !!
AGH!
OUKA'S GOING TO BE WITH ME...?!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
YOU MUST BE A FINE KUNOICHI EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE STILL A CHILD.
Excellent excellent!!
I'LL BE ACCOMPANYING YOU TO UEDA CASTLE.
MY NAME IS MAMEZO.
I HAD HEARD...
...THAT NINJA ARE SUSPICIOUS-LOOKING PEOPLE, BUT YOU DON'T LOOK. .
TADAKATSU HONDA'S HOME
VEEN
VEEN
SUSPICIOUS?
PRINCESS KOMATSU HAS NEVER SEEN A NINJA BEFORE.
I SEE.
HA HA
WE'RE BOTH INEXPERIENCED, BUT WE'LL DO OUR BEST.

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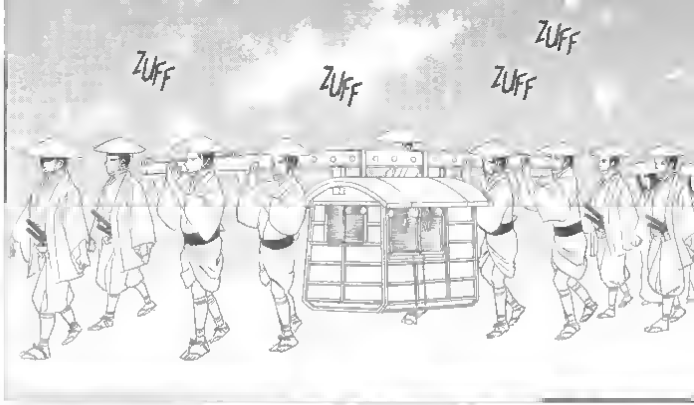

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WHEN MY DAD DIED, I LEFT KOUGA EVER SINCE THEN, I'VE BEEN LIVING A HAND-TO-MOUTH LIFE.
NAH...
I NEVER GOT THE CHANCE TO SEE YOU AFTER ALL THAT RACKET AT HONNOJI...
ARE YOU STILL LIVING IN KOUGA AS A NINJA?
WHOA. .
SHE LOOKS SO MUCH LIKE MASTER HANZO.
SHE'S OUKA, HANZO AND USAGI'S DAUGHTER.
YOU'RE...
...ALONE NOW...?
WATARI'S FATHER...
I'M USED TO BEING ALONE.
YOU MIGHT BUMP INTO MORE BANDITS ON THE WAY.
LEMME HELP YOU.
UH-HUH .
ANYWAY, ARE YOU ESCORTING THIS PROCESSION RIGHT NOW, MAMEZO?
WA...
...TARI...?
IT REALLY HAS BEEN A LONG TIME...!!
YEAH, LONG TIME NO SEE, MAMEZO.
WHO IS THIS PERSON ?
THAT KID, IS SHE...?
A REALLY GOOD FRIEND OF MINE.
WATARI FROM KOUGA.

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MONASTERY LODGINGS
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.
USA'S GOING TO BE SO HAPPY WHEN SHE HEARS ABOUT WATARI!
Really now
OUKA...
WATARI...
WATARI.
WE ONLY MAKE DEALS WITH HIGH-RANKING NINJA.
NO WAY.
BUT WATARI IS A FRIEND OF MINE, AND...
WE'RE NOT ABOUT TO HIRE A SUSPICIOUS NINJA LIKE YOU!!
VUP
FORGET IT.
TCH
WHO KNOWS?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
OKAY, OKAY...
I'LL GO BY MYSELF THEN...
No ninja stars, please.
SHA
YOU'RE INVITING AN UNMARRIED GIRL TO TAKE A BATH WITH YOU?!
G/F/E
DO YOU WANT TO GO...?
OH, BY THE WAY, I HEARD THAT THERE'S A HOT SPRING NEARBY.
EEEEEEK
THAT CAME FROM THE PRINCESS'S ROOM.
HM.
THAT'S OKAY, BUT THANKS ALL THE SAME.
SEE YA.
I'M SURE SHE'LL WELCOME YOU, WATARI...
USA RUNS A MEDICINE SHOP IN THE CASTLE TOWN OF HAMA-MATSU.

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YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT A THING.
PRIN-CESS ...
IS SOMEONE TRYING TO KILL ME...?
I'LL PROTECT YOU WITH MY LIFE.
OOH...
DID SHE PRICK HERSELF WITH IT?!
W-WE FOUND A NEEDLE HIDDEN INSIDE PRINCESS KOMATSU'S KIMONO AND...
WHAT'S THE MATTER ?!
TMP
TMP
BUT LUCKILY, SHE SEEMS TO BE ALL RIGHT, SO...
YES...
WHAT?!
YOU MUST TAKE AN ANTIDOTE RIGHT AWAY!!
IT MUST HAVE BEEN POISONED.
A POISONED NEEDLE IN MY KIMONO...
PLEASE LOOK THROUGH ALL OF THE PRINCESS'S BELONGINGS!!
USA MADE THIS ANTIDOTE, SO IT'S SAFE!

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THEN, ALONG THE WAY...?!
THAT'S POSSIBLE IF IT HAPPENED WHEN WE WERE ATTACKED BY THOSE BANDITS...
WE'VE FOUND MORE THAN THIRTY POISONED NEEDLES IN PRINCESS KOMATSU'S BELONGINGS!!
SO MANY...
ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT THESE NEEDLES GOT INSIDE BEFORE WE LEFT HAMAMATSU?!

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IT'S SUCH A PAIN WALKING AROUND IN THESE GIRLY CLOTHES IT'S TOO LONG..!
URGH, DAMMIT ..!
CUT IT OUT.
WATARI, YOU LOOK CUTE...
R... REALLY?
A GIRL SHOULD NOT TALK LIKE THAT.
!
MAYBE IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT TO LET THAT NINJA GUARD HER.
HM...
PRINCESS KOMATSU SEEMS TO LIKE HER.
CAN SOMEONE PASS ME MY COMB?
YOUR HAIR IS TANGLED UP TOO.
SPLENDID!
REALLY ?!
WATARI, YOU'VE BEEN HIRED!!
GRIN
SHFF
SHFF
MAMEZO...
...SO SHE CAN BE RIGHT BY THE PRINCESS'S SIDE TO PROTECT HER...
WATARI'S ACTUALLY A GIRL...
YOU'RE ASKING US TO HIRE THAT NINJA FROM YESTERDAY ?!
I'VE...
...NEVER WORN ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE...
SO SHE REALLY IS A GIRL?!
THAT'S THE NINJA FROM YESTER-DAY?

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